



April 2012

Draft Minutes of March 2012 Board Meeting Teleconference

Board members

Earl Hale, Vice Chair

Charley Bingham

Roberta Greene

Bill Grinstein

Addison Jacobs

Sam Shaddox

Sam Smith

Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Earl Hale opened the teleconference at 10:00 a.m. by asking the Board members to identify themselves, as well as institutional representatives who called in to the conference.

ACTION AGENDA

Minutes of February Board Meeting Approved

Action: Addison Jacobs moved for approval of the minutes of the Board's February 2012 meeting. Roberta Greene seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

New Degree Programs Approved

Action: Charley Bingham moved for approval of two new degree programs: UW Seattle, Ph.D. in Global Health: Metrics and Implementation Science (Resolutions 12-03) and; WWU, Bachelor of Arts in Education in General Science – Middle Level (Resolution 12-04). Sam Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Rules Change – Degree-granting Institutions Act

The proposed rules would increase fees for initial degree authorization, degree authorization renewal and degree authorization reapplication. The rules also would establish fees for new program applications and new site applications, and create definitions for a “new program application” and “new site application.”

Last year, the Legislature allowed the HECB to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the delivery of online, competency-based education by Western Governor University-Washington. Consistent with that legislation, WGU-Washington has been granted a temporary waiver from the authorization requirement of the Degree-Granting Institutions Act. The proposed rules include language to allow a specific exemption category for schools that receive legislative recognition as Washington schools, provided the schools comply with all conditions established by the Legislature.

The proposed rules also add clarifying language to assist stakeholders in understanding Washington requirements for degree-granting institutions.

Action: **Bill Grinstein** moved for approval of Resolution 12-05, adopting changes to **rules governing the Degree-granting Institutions Act**. **Addison Jacobs** seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Update on the 2012 Legislative Session

Don Bennett, executive director, provided a brief update on the legislative session and the state of the proposed supplemental operating and capital budgets. Bennett noted that on March 31 (the 20th day after adjournment of the regular session, Sundays excepted), bills passed become law regardless of whether the governor has signed them. The 30-day special session must adjourn on Tuesday, April 10.

Neither the House nor Senate budget bill had passed the Legislature, Bennett reported. The issues being discussed by legislators went beyond differences in spending levels to encompass current and future spending reforms. Amending pension law to prevent public employees with 30 years of service from retiring at 62 (a provision that would not become effective for 30 years) and closure of the Plan 2 retirement systems for new employees hired after July 1, were sticking points. Consolidating health insurance purchasing at the state level for K-12 employees also was a reform issue. Bennett emphasized the proposed spending reforms did not reduce spending in the current biennium, but were projected to achieve savings in future years.

Academic Affairs Updates

The HECB Academic Affairs division reported that the HECB is collaborating with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to initiate a \$1.7 million, three-year statewide educator professional development effort focused on improving teaching and learning in math, science and English. Proposals are being sought by May 25, 2012 for one or two professional development projects conducted as partnerships between one or more higher education institutions and one or more high-need school districts.

A primary goal is to implement new Common Core State Standards in mathematics and the Next Generation Science Standards for grades 6-12. Proposals also are expected to address closing the achievement gap and improving postsecondary attendance and completion. In addition, they may address implementing Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts.

Projects will deliver professional development designed to prepare teachers and principals to implement the standards to improve student achievement. It is hoped the expertise developed through these partnerships can be leveraged to provide integrated professional development that addresses learning standards and content across multiple districts in the state.

Financial Aid Update

Rachelle Sharpe, director for Student Financial Assistance, reported that staff has begun the process of reviewing State Need Grant (SNG) policies. The report will be worked on through monthly meetings with college financial aid administrators, SBCTC, COP, the independent colleges, and legislative staff. Evaluating SNG policies is required by law.

Agency transition planning

Bennett reported working with the governor's staff to make the transition from the HECB to the Student Achievement Council seamless and coordinated. A professional has been hired to help agency leadership in the planning process.

The meeting **adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**